

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07855 221703Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9951  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 07855

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: WHO US VM  
SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: APPROACH BY SRV  
REPRESENTATIVES

REF: STATE 125954

1. SUMMARY. VIETNAM HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY SECRETARY CALIFANO'S SPEECH TO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA) MAY 9 ENCOURAGED THEIR DELEGATION TO EXPLORE WITH US POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN LINKS WITH US. THEY AGREED WHEN USDEL CHIEF, AFTER DESCRIBING SOME OF CURRENT NONGOVERNMENTAL LINKS BETWEEN PRC AND US, OFFERED TO SEE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, MIGHT BE DEVELOPED ALONG THESE LINES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 20 DR. JOHN BRYANT, CHIEF USDEL TO WHA, WITH MS. THEA TAUSIG OF US MISSION AS INTERPRETER, MET AT PALAIS DES NATIONS WITH NGUYEN VAN TRONG (DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, SRV MINISTRY OF HEALTH) AND DR. PHAM VAN GIAN (DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH IN SAME MINISTRY). BOTH ARE MEMBERS OF SRV DELEGATION TO WHA. TRONG, WHO HAD  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07855 221703Z

ASKED FOR MEETING, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER MAKING CONTACT WITH USDEL THROUGH BRYANT. HE SAID THAT BECAUSE OF SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS IN VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY THE SOUTH, THE SRV HAD SOUGHT ASSISTANCE FROM MANY COUNTRIES. CURRENT COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS AND RESEARCH WORKERS, COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND MATERIAL HELP. NEEDS CONTINUED TO BE

ENORMOUS IN MANY AREAS OF PUBLIC HEALTH. WARMTH AND COMPASSION CONVEYED BY SECRETARY CALIFANO'S SPEECH TO WHA HAD ENCOURAGED SRVDEL TO SEE WHETHER US/SRV COOPERATION IN HEALTH FIELD COULD BE DEVELOPED. IT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP AWAY FROM POLITICAL ISSUES SINCE THEY HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THEM. BECAUSE HEALTH SERVICES ARE "HUMANITARIAN", SAID TRONG, HIS SIDE WAS HOPEFUL OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS AT THE HEALTH MINISTRY LEVEL BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. BRYANT REPLIED THAT CURRENT STATE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN SRV AND USG PREVENTED US GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED ASSISTANCE. HE ADDED THAT ONE POSSIBILITY, WITH WHICH TRONG WAS PRESUMABLY ALREADY FAMILIAR, WAS HELP FROM PRIVATE US SOURCES. BRYANT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, SUGGESTED THAT TRONG MIGHT WISH TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND PRC FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGES. IN THESE EXCHANGES THE US SIDE CONSISTS OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS (CSC). TRONG AND GIAN EXPRESSED INTEREST AND BRYANT GAVE FURTHER DETAILS. TRONG COMMENTED THAT SRV'S "ASSOCIATION DES MEDECINS" MIGHT BE THE APPROPRIATE SRV GROUP TO SERVE AS CORRESPONDENT TO SOME PRIVATE US GROUP. BRYANT EMPHASIZED THAT SCOPE FOR MUTUAL EXCHANGES MIGHT PROVE TO BE MODEST. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO SPEAK TO SOME PEOPLE  
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07855 221703Z

IN US PRIVATE SECTOR IF TRONG AND GIAN WISHED. BOTH MEN EXPRESSED SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL. IT WAS AGREED THAT BRYANT WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE AND COMMUNICATE WITH THEM AGAIN IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS.

4. BRYANT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER GUIDANCE IN DUE COURSE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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